Casa Rosamunda

Musings, Waftings, Silly Things

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Racination as of 10/14/2012

October 14, 2012 in Diary by Elefarya Rosamunda | 16 comments

(http://aristasia-central.com/heartbook/elefarea/files/2012/10/thamenecklace-400x300.jpg)

So, as you can see, we have a new pretty. That's the Sai Thame necklace I made Sucridi before the reading. She has a lapis lazuli head, base metal (so mostly tin, how suiting!) wings, and a purple Swarovski body, and rides on a silver chain. I feel stronger and more suited to dealing with life when I wear her. She wasn't hard to make. It's just three beads stacked on what is called a head pin, the head pin bent on top to create a closed loop, and then the whole pendant threaded onto a chain and the chain attached to a magnetic clasp. I could do it with metals, colors, and gems swapped out to represent any of the great Janyati.

I'm on the path to reracinating my attire and it's hard! For one thing, people come up and *talk* to me. As though I were someone worth speaking to. Oh no! Sometimes that gets to be too much and I succumb to the urge to put on bongo camouflage and escape all notice. That's the hardest part of racination in the Pit, I think – standing out. Mostly, though, I'm wearing skirts, blouses, and mary janes with either bobby socks or stockings of some kind to class. I'm still very much getting used to this kind of clothing – the kind that matters how it looks.

I'm also making my first experiments with makeup – my goal is "me but polished". So far my absolute favorite thing is Aveeno tinted moisturizer. It's a sheer makeup and very good for your skin – both moisturizing and SPF 30. Most face makeup makes me itch, but this doesn't. It's also very hard to get wrong – I just rub it in and I have instant Gaussian Blur. Very nice and easy!

So…well…that's my little update. Um…yes.

16 comments

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Morgan Hildotter on October 14, 2012 at 2:21 pm

Oh, how wonderful! Your necklace is very pretty.

It is interesting about how differently people react to you when dressing in a more racinated fashion. I have noticed that too. Actually, I kind of like it, in that I get treated with more respect. I am a bit older in the flavvie, and my profession often requires me to wear business suits, so mostly I am changing how I dress when not going to work.

One of the fun things is noticing the civilizing effect dressing better has on those around. Teenagers, in particular, will start behaving themselves, offer to help with bags, and open doors….or say things like, "let the lady go by."

I will admit that poor Miss Rill, who is much younger than I and quite vain, gets a little disconcerted with this….and says it make her feel *ancient*.

Log in to Reply

Elefarya Rosamunda on October 14, 2012 at 6:09 pm

Hee hee! Just tell her it makes them treat you like they should be treating *every* blonde, and it doesn't so much matter under what harmless misconception they do so.

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Miss Silence on November 29, 2012 at 8:58 pm

Your necklace is lovely!

Clothing can be so difficult; I myself struggle with it from time to time, sometimes a great deal. The idea of "comfort" often comes up in my mind – is this outfit going to feel physically comfortable on me? I have to admit that this comfort is as much psychological as it is physical; stepping out in proper attire takes courage I don't always (think I) have. It just seems easier to slip back into an out-of-date wardrobe to blend in the background. But wearing the right clothing – there's nothing like it!

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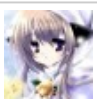
Sushuri-chei on November 30, 2012 at 12:20 pm



It makes me feel how alien I am. I doubt if I would blend in whatever I wore (though I just can't BRING myself to wear bongo clothes – it would feel stranger than going about in a loincloth). But I don't think I stand out either. Certainly no one would ever try to talk with me, I think. I just have an alien atmosphere. Occasionally someone asks me if I belong to some particular religious group and I say no, and that is that. I am polite and friendly, but we just don't speak the same language (even on the occasions when we technically do).

It is so nice to hear from you, Miss Silence! Do stay around!

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Crystal Lindqvist on November 30, 2012 at 4:59 pm

I think that there is a middle ground, particular as our flavvies become more mature.

What I have been doing is wearing mostly skirts and dresses and avoiding bifurcs as much as I can. As much as I would love to wear gloves and a hat, I do not as of yet, although, I have a pretty pair of autumn gloves that I made, that can pass as just regular gloves because my hands are cold (although, *I* know that they are more than that).

Perhaps, I will go further someday, but I think that for now, as I have to live and work in the Pit, this is a good compromise.

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Elefarya Rosamunda on November 30, 2012 at 5:30 pm

I think part of dressing differently from other people is being able to sell it. You can be what others consider overdressed and they really won't mind as long as you treat it as something perfectly normal. It's gotten to the point that my classmates are actually disappointed if I don't come to class in a hat – which I don't always because I have one decent hat and it doesn't go with everything. I really do want to be at the point soon where I am dressed appropriately 100% of the time, but on my budget (and at my size, which is not buyable in most vintage shops) this means the slow acquisition of the appropriate articles.

Soon I have a buying decision to make – gloves or gospel, gospel or gloves?

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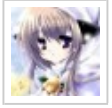
Sushuri-chei on November 30, 2012 at 5:40 pm



This is interesting, honored Rosa-chei. While I feel (and I think am felt to be) alien, I never feel my clothes make me stand out, and I wondered why. From what you are saying, I suspect it is because dressing this way is natural *to me* for me there is nothing odd or ostentatious about it and I suspect people *feel* that somehow.

For the same reason they would tend not to approach me because they also feel my alien-ness.

Log in to Reply

Lucetta Jane Spurling on December 1, 2012 at 4:31 am

As a graphic designer, I'm expected to be a walking billboard for my "style," or else be confined to matte black shirts and jeans forever. There's also the concern of comfort, being at a desk for the vast majority of waking hours. While not deviating from my uniform of graphic T-shirts and skirts stitched from vintage remnants, I've decided the next best thing is proper underthings! My Nativity present to myself will probably be a couple of things from Rago. But, I must ask, how do you ladies keep your stockinged stems warm in winter?

It gets positively frigid where I live, and I can't imagine facing the blowing snow in naught but silk.

Log in to Reply

Elefarya Rosamunda on December 1, 2012 at 12:25 pm

Step 1: thick stockings.

I'm not a fully-fashioned stocking size (most of us aren't, thems who's not too big's too little) so I wear knee-highs, thigh-highs and (gasp) even tights (it's seriously hard to find anything else in my size that will stay up) and these are all made in thicker knits. Ladies were wearing thick knit stockings in winter for centuries, and you can get some nice ones online.

Step 2: long skirts

My skirts tend to stop well below the knee, often at ankle length. The tricky bit is getting skirts that are long, but not sloppy, and I'm still working on that.

Step 3: layered skirts

The original purpose of petticoats is a) to not have to wash delicate, dyed outergarments so often and b) to provide warmth. Some of my less tailored skirts have been relegated to going under my more tailored skirts if they're the meant-to-be-full kind, and the air-pockets that are trapped between the layers go a long way to keeping me warm.

Step 4: proper outerwear

Scarves (even the silky ones), gloves (even cotton), and hats (even fancy ones) are all *designed* to protect you from cold air in the first place! Veils are not just for modesty. Long coats rather than short ones tend to be more graceful with skirts *anyhow*, and they can go over jackets. Buttoned vests add another layer of warmth.

Step 5: do not underestimate the power of real fabric

Silk is actually a much more effective inner layer for insulating than cotton, which search and rescue people call "death cloth". Wool is *extremely* effective at keeping weather out and heat in. Now, I'd never use the fur of any animal I wasn't willing and likely to eat, but shearling and rabbit fur are very warm as well.

Log in to Reply

Lucetta Jane Spurling on December 1, 2012 at 3:17 pm

Thank you so much for the suggestions, Miss Elefarya. I shall definitely find some wool stockings and petticoats for the winter.

Log in to Reply

Sushuri-chei on December 1, 2012 at 7:34 pm

How right about fully-fashioned stockings – I come into the too -little-for-them category. Really I think they are a bit overrated anyway, though I do see the charm, and I really can't

understand the prejudice against tights. They are excellent for winter and as for being half-way to bifurcs, I just can't see the argument at all. They aren't. And this is coming from someone who won't even own a pair of bifurcs. I mean to write a post some time on all the times people have said to me "You can't do that without bifurcs" and I have.

Winter here is relatively mild – well all right, it IS mild, though for a tropical baby like me it is plenty cold enough. The winter months see me going from light cotton gloves to wind-proof but thin and skin-tight leather ones. I have a nicely cut beige winter coat and long boots for when I really need them. I have known cold though. One year I wintered in Prague. That was one of the things You Can't Do Without Bifurcs. I did.

Log in to Reply

Elefarya Rosamunda on December 1, 2012 at 7:53 pm

On the subject of tights, there is a *practical* objection for busy and active pettes. If you bend wrong in tights, they tear. If you bend wrong in gartered stockings, your garters pop. One of these options is fixable.

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Lucetta Jane Spurling on December 2, 2012 at 5:15 am

If you are happy to wear tights, might I suggest ballet tights? (Aside from pinks, they also come in white, black, and tan, in various weights and opacities.) They have quite a wide range of sizes (I've known an extremely imposing transwoman to wear them–and roller skate in them–with ease and grace) and they are very stretchy and durable.

And, really, no one ought to know whether one is wearing tights or stockings anyhow!

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Elefarya Rosamunda on December 2, 2012 at 9:40 am

That sounds pretty good!

It's true, if they can tell, you're doing it wrong. I think part of the initial objection came from a period where the current fashion was ridiculously short skirts, and the goal was to remove the option of wearing those skirts. Me, I've got nothing like that in my closet. Well, all right, I do have some very short skirts in my closet, but that's because it's a shared closet and I assure you they come to a decent length on the wee maid they're intended for.

Log in to Reply

Sushuri-chei on December 2, 2012 at 9:47 am

Hee of Wee Maid skirts! Actually I do wear gartered stockings and tights are only a theory to me – but I don't see much wrong with the theory.

Elmina Vikhaya on December 5, 2012 at 3:39 pm

I am interested to know that you don’t see a problem with tights, as I have been wondering about the philosophical reasons for the objection to tights among many older Aristasians. I do find stockings and overknee socks more aesthetically pleasing, so would ideally like to switch to them exclusively, but I do have some prettily patterned tights that I would be loath to get rid of…

Any advice would be much appreciated!

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